

South Dakota National Guard

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

82nd CST welcomes new commander, unit receives award

RAPID CITY, S.D. – Lt. Col. Pete Jerzak assumed command of the South Dakota National Guard's 82nd Civil Support Team during a May 8 ceremony at Ellsworth Air Force Base.

Jerzak received command of the Rapid City-based unit from Lt. Col. Brendan Murphy who commanded the unit since May 2013.

The 82nd CST was also recognized with the presentation of the National Guard Bureau's Superior Unit Award during the ceremony. The Superior Unit Award is awarded to units that meet high levels of personnel readiness, training and inspections.

"The superior unit award is a challenging award to obtain," said Col. Marshall Michels, 109th Regional Support Group commander, during the presentation of the award. "The Superior Unit Award requires a team effort, and the 82nd CST lived up to every aspect of this award. I could not be more proud of them."

Jerzak spoke of his expectations of the unit.

"How do you take something that's very good and make it better?" he said. "That's the challenge we have, because when you think you're good that's when you get complacent. So we want to always push ourselves."

Jerzak previously served with the CST as their deputy commander from 2005-2010 and comes from Joint Force Headquarters where he served as the J7 Readiness Branch chief.

The outgoing commander gave credit to the team he led the past two years for all of their hard work.

"I couldn't be more proud of the 82nd," said Murphy. "All of their hard work and dedication made my command experience one I will cherish forever. I am happy to have served alongside each one of them."

Murphy will now serve as the executive officer to the adjutant general of the South Dakota National Guard.

The 82nd CST is the state's all-hazard response team capable of detecting chemical, biological, radiological and explosive materials. The unit responds to incidents of local, state and national significance and provides support to civilian authority and agencies such as local fire departments, police/sheriff departments, county emergency management offices and other agencies of the first-responder community.

High-resolution photos available upon request.



150508-Z-ZZ999-001: U.S. Army Lt. Col. Pete Jerzak the incoming commander of the South Dakota National Guard's 82nd Civil Support Team, addresses the audience during a change of command ceremony at Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D., May 8, 2015. Lt. Col. Brendan Murphy relinquished command to Jerzak and will now serve as the executive officer to the adjutant general of the SDNG. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Michael Borbely/Released)



150508-Z-ZZ999-002: U.S. Army Lt. Col. Pete Jerzak the incoming commander of the South Dakota National Guard's 82nd Civil Support Team, receives the unit guidon during a change of command ceremony at Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D., May 8, 2015. The passing of the guidon from the outgoing commander to the incoming commander is an Army tradition. Lt. Col. Brendan Murphy relinquished command to Jerzak and will now serve as the executive officer to the adjutant general of the SDNG. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Michael Borbely/Released)



150508-Z-ZZ999-003: U.S. Army Lt. Col. Brendan Murphy, right, the outgoing commander of the South Dakota National Guard's 82nd Civil Support Team, relinquishes the unit guidon to Col. Marshall Michels, 109th Regional Support Group commander, during a change of command ceremony at Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D., May 8, 2015. The passing of the guidon from the outgoing commander to the incoming commander is an Army tradition. Murphy relinquished command to Lt. Col. Pete Jerzak who will now serve as the unit's commanding officer. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Michael Borbely/Released)

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